

Since taking office in 2007, Governor Mike Beebe has made improving education, expanding Arkansas's economy and cutting taxes his top priorities. Under Beebe's leadership, Arkansas has achieved more than \$1.6 billion in tax relief.

Governor Beebe's education policies and initiatives have garnered nationwide attention, and Arkansas now ranks fifth in overall K-12 education. To build a better-trained workforce, Governor Beebe has worked to match colleges and universities with local businesses and has led changes in the way schools teach science, math, engineering and technology (STEM subjects).

Arkansas also has significantly improved health care during Beebe's time in office. The Arkansas Health Care Payment Improvement Initiative has reined in rising costs by giving doctors financial incentives to provide better care more efficiently. Already, it has been noted as a potential model for other states. Additionally, Governor Beebe led the effort to fund Arkansas's much-needed statewide trauma system. Arkansas's Trauma Call Center has also established itself as a national trendsetter.

Born in Amagon, Arkansas, Beebe earned a bachelor's degree in political science from Arkansas State University in 1968, and completed law school at the University of Arkansas in 1972, while serving in the U.S. Army Reserve. In 2011, Governor Beebe was honored by *Governing Magazine* as Public Official of the Year. He currently serves as the chairman of the Southern Governors' Association.

Governor Beebe and his wife, Ginger, have worked together to improve children's health and literacy throughout the State and have been nationally recognized for their leadership in fighting childhood hunger.